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NPRM Part 97

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Dear Mr Cross,

I thought that you might be interested in what happens to learning disabled person in the world of Technology. I have found out that the non-disabled simply don't understand the stigma and the effort required to succeed in this world. — First of all I can not spell because I don't remember the position of letters in words. Second I can not type because my mind can not remember where the letters are on the keyboard.

I joined the Air ROTC between my sophomore and freshman years at the University of Miami. Six hundred entered, Only 300 hundred made it into my junior year. Between my Jr. & Sr. years I went to the Radio School encampment at Scott Field Illinois. Again we had a 50% flunk out rate; but I made it to my Senior Year. The Korean War started while I was a cadet. Only 75 made it to Senior Class, About 40 were commissioned. About 24 of us were commissioned. The death rate killed 20 of us in accidents and the war. In the same year, I went to Keesler AFB for Electronics School. The flunk out rate was 10% and I finished the course

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At Keesler I lasted back 2 weeks in my training because I flunked a section. Then went to Atomic Energy School on a Weapons Course, I did well in the beginning, but I had heavy duty problems as the course continued. My problem was that I have an armal disability. Much of the Weapons Course was lectures format and I was not getting it. I had a "Q" security rating. Only about 450 people in the world had it in 1952. I could do codes at about 5-6 WPM. I went to the 72nd Strategic Recon Wing in the 2nd AF of SAC. We flew R.F-50's. I served a year more on active duty and made First Lt. I had an Electronics AFIC Not bad for a guy thrown out of Fairfax HS in LA as being a dummy. I came back and served as an airborne electronics officer with the 366th Troop Carrier Wing flying C-46's out of Miami International Air Depot. Code remained at 5-WPM. I was in charge of maintenance and operation of all communications equipment on all our aircraft.

Around 1983 I was the Commodore of the Stone Yacht Club of Long Beach, California. We did the 1984 Pre-Olympics. Russia decided not to participate in the 1984 Olympics, I was one of the 6 Commodores who faci the Olympics. I was in charge of all shore activi-

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and security. We decided to go HAM Frequency Hand Held on each patrol - command boats and a net operated from Re Harbor Command Post, I retained Gordon West and Lorraine McCarthy to run a licensing school for the operators to be used on the boat. About 45 students took the course and about 40 were licensed. I easily passed the written for novice and Tech/General. I took the code course for 8 weeks. I took off of work the last week and passed the 5WPM test. I was licensed by Lorraine McCarthy on 12/19/83. The Olympics went well and I continued to train using the Gordon West Tapes. I moved to N.Y. in 1984 and bought an Icom 745. - For three years I practised and trained at least an hour a day 7 days a week. I refused to ask for a waiver. My 36 year old son is severely learning disabled and did not complete H.S. He is now a cook with Los Angeles California. My 33 year old daughter is also L/D. She graduated George Washington Univ. and obtained her Masters from NYU Graduate School of Social Work. She is an MSW with Los Angeles County. My wife is classroom teacher of the hearing impaired in a school district on Long Island. She has L/D Merton from Hunter College-College of New York.

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I had contacted Re APRPL in 1983 about a no code license for Novice to get onto 2 M. Finally I contacted Rep. Lucy Senater from Kansas, Rep. Congress man from Los Angeles, Rep. Senator from California, and a Senator from New York. They went to the FCC with a ~~no~~ no-code rule. Eventually it worked out. I also contacted a Doctor in San Bernardino, California. I had learned Re APRPL had no interest in a no-code category for learners or the handicapped. I learned Rep. APRPL and W5YI had no learning disabled leadership although 18-20% of Americans are LD. Politics was the only way. For Rep. 5 years I studied types to go to General I had my own hobby-Code. I rode the LIRR back and forth to NYC studying code. Finally I got up to 11 WPM after 3 years of very bad work at 11.5 WPM I flew out to Corinne McCarty's school at the One County Fair-ground School Site. Sunday Afternoon Rep. 2nd try I passed by W5YI VEC and made General on 10/23/88. I bought a new Icom 751A and became quite active SSB running WTS/WAC/DXPC, 3/26/97 I passed Advanced and purchased an Icom 77

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I still have trouble on the air operating SSB. I have to listen 3 to 4 times to a CQ call to put down the talking sign. I never get the call sign on the first pass. I often have to listen a long time to pick up a call sign. I often work DX during a contest by listening to their QRZ call many times so that I get the call sign correctly. I do not work any DX nets at all. I rarely tanky work a DX prediction as I can not hear them. I live 20 miles east of Free Square and QR is bad. I am 9 miles from Keweenaw. It is quite noisy I can't stand noise. When I drive my car in congested conditions I turn off my car radio to not confuse my mind. My doctor would easily give me a waiver certificate as he has been my doctor since 1985 and would help me. I can make things work out on my own but many people can not. I belong to many groups that assist the learning disabled. The last thing Real any of us want is a paper trail record accessible by the general public to ascertain private matters between me and my doctor as to what my disability is. Rate my disability and not the business of the

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ARRL/W5YI/o - Federal Government, I have a right to privacy about my physical problem and the Congress agrees with me. The ACLU will go to court at once to protect the rights of disabled Americans. What I don't understand is why the ARRL is so tilted in its actions against the mentally handicapped?

Apparently an acceptable solution is to make the code barriers the same as other nations and the minor problem will go away. I have had Rat as a disabled problem that I can stop up and receive 10 WPM although I just passed a 13 WPM test in 1983. It would take several years of training to get me back up to 13 WPM. I retest myself about once a year and still at 10 WPM and seem to retain Rat. Some

there are now several people outside the ARRL who are interested in protecting the civil liberties and rights of privacy of the hearing disabled. I have been active on the subject for 15 years and is a terrible burden which should not be. All I want to do is participate in my hobby with many others who have the same problems. Why should there be a problem or threat to any one? Didn't